



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

April 26, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

The Meeting called to order, as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: Richard Aronson, Helen Bechard, John Cherry, John Cooke, Ed Moore, Cheryl Hill, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Mary Burke. Public: Sandy Chaleski.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the March meeting were submitted. A motion by GSmith to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by HBechard. Passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

eMail: Make Music Day mini grant, Newtown Bee looking for a local angle,
Richter Arts asking for submissions for the Danbury Gallery (Intern),
CT Ballet re: location for Under the Stars.

Mail:

Phone:

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Events SPORADIC Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7PP

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
 - First Friday Jazz
- Danbury Museums
 - The outdoor exhibit panels are installed. Stop by and have a look at these colorful images from your favorite fair.
- Palace Theater Danbury
- Galleries
 - Gallery at Still River Editions
 - @287 287 Main St. Danbury
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
- Accessible Art
 - City Hall,
 - CityCenter Danbury,
 - Hodge Insurance,
 - Filosa Convalescent/Hancock Hall,
 - Bethel Public Library,
- Danbury Library

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK

MAY 27 2021

BY: J. Craig



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Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com

EVENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESUME DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC.

Coordinator's Report

1. Make Music Day
 - a. Mini-grant received (\$750)
 - b. Flyers being distributed on Main Street being paid for by John Fazio
 - c. Would like a motion for authorization to spend \$750 mini-grant
2. Poetry contest winners
 - a. How many awards to give out?
 - b. What kind of Awards ceremony?
3. Scholarships
 - a. Danbury High and Abbott Tech participating
 - b. Winner at Abbott Tech is Anaeli River. The Awards day is June 11
4. The Music Centre is cleaning up the first floor. All items denoting the Commission's office have been removed from the rear window. They are discarding their items and have made overtures toward taking the closet negotiated in the last lease deal in 2018. I am working to redirect their efforts. Chairman HCenter is copied on all correspondence.

Appeals from Community groups:

None

Old Business

1. University Intern project - Report from Jonathan Wencek
So far there have been five submissions. The request for submissions has been seen by 700 people.
There are two confirmed judges and one additional is considering. Due to University course requirements the entry deadline could be and was moved to April 30, 2021. At the May Commission meeting a final mockup will be presented so that Commissioners can comment and make suggestions for changes. The final gallery will be posted on June 1, 2021.
Jonathan continues to meet with Commissioner advisor HBechard.
2. Make Music Day
 - a. JCooke has a commitment from Bethel Printing to produce some flyers for free. Additional copies can be made at their usual price.
 - b. HBechard inquired about spending some of the mini-grant to pay those helping put this project together. The Coordinator believed that is in the grant scope.
3. Poetry Awards
 - a. Should the awards be in-person or on-line? A quick pole of the Commissioner indicates that on-line is the preferred method.



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Moved by HBechard that 2021 should be another year for on-line poetry contest awards with the hope that next year the Commission can return to the full Literary contest format with an in-person ceremony.

DISCUSSION:

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

- b. Number and amount of awards for the 2021 Poetry Contest

Chairman HCenter offered a suggestion for additional 2021 Poetry Awards.

Moved by HBechard to accept Chairman Center's idea that the Awards for the 2021 Poetry Contest be as follows: 1st Prize \$200, 2nd Prize \$150, 3rd Prize \$100, and 5 Honorable Mentions of \$50 each for a total of \$800, with the stipend of \$100 for the judge. Second by GSmith.

DISCUSSION: Because there is no Short Story Contest this year some of the assigned prize money can be used for an expanded poetry awards. JCherry: This is an opportunity to encourage the youth of Danbury to be involved. What else can the Commission do for the 50th Anniversary of the Poetry Contest?

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

- c. To further honor the poetry award winners in the 50 years of the contest, the Commission could publish a book containing poems from the past up to and including the current winners.

- i. The Coordinator will research the number of poems, from which years are available and how much it would cost. SChalesky will assist.

Action on Grant Requests:

None.

New Business

Moved by HBechard to allocate up to \$750 for expenses for Make Music Day, spending within the terms of the state mini-grant. Seconded by CHill.

DISCUSSION: JCooke will assist the coordinator in maintaining a budget and approve spending.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business

1. GSmith is interested in promoting "National Public Gardens Week" as a Danbury cultural event. The event is the week before Mother's Day. There might not be enough time for this year but it could be promoted for next year. JCherry notes that the Danbury Garden Club works with the Danbury Museum on multiple projects. JCooke concurred that the members can often be found on the museum grounds. JCooke will reach out to the Garden club to ascertain interest.
2. GWencek asked if there are any Commissioners interested in purchasing the much discussed apparel they should email for choices and prices. Most items are around \$32 except for a hooded sweatshirt for around \$55. Information about sizes, exact styles and so on can be discussed off-line during the week.



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3. The Commissioners thought about venues for the Connecticut Ballet "Under the Stars" program in Danbury but nothing new came to mind. If anyone thinks of something they will notify the Coordinator who will pass it to CT Ballet.

Motion to adjourn at 7:35

Made by HBechard. Passed by Unanimous vote.

NOTE:

Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

- 1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office had set up a video conference call which started at 6:00 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public connected to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87113777368?pwd=Qnlul1lFUmYrMGNKaE1KNkY3YWZSUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 1377 7368 Passcode: 630809

One tap mobile +19292056099,,87113777368#,,,,*630809# US (New York)

The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.

Upcoming events CURTAILED Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B

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CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
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May 24, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting called to order, as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: John Cherry, John Cooke, Ed Moore, Cheryl Hill, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Richard Aronson, Helen Bechard, and Mary Burke. Public: Sandy Chaleski.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the April meeting were submitted. A motion by GSmith to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by JCooke. Passed by unanimous vote.

Announcement: Commissioner Richard Aronson has resigned from the Commission for personal reasons. The Chairman and the other Commissioners thanked him for his service and his continued well being.

Correspondence

Mail: To the Chairman from Commissioner RAronson, his letter of resignation.

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony. There were 11 attendees including Our Judge, Jim Scrimgeour, 4 teachers, a parent, and 3 poets plus one pre-recorded poet reading her work. The event went well and a recording will be made available on the Commission website as soon as it is edited.
- Events SPORADIC Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7PP

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
 - First Friday Jazz
 - Danbury Symphony Orchestra Strings in Concert
- Danbury Museums
- Palace Theater Danbury
- Galleries
 - Gallery at Still River Editions
 - @287 287 Main St. Danbury
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
 - Mothership on Main
- Danbury Library

Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com
EVENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESUME DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC.

Coordinator's Report

Minutes of the Meeting (PROPOSED) Page 1 of 4 Submitted: May 26, 2021
NOTE: Additional and supporting information can be found in the files at the Commission office.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK

MAY 27 2021

BY: 



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1. The Commission awarded 3 grants this year
 - i. Danbury Music Centre \$10,000.00
 - ii. Richter Association for the Arts \$3,100.00
 - iii. Musicals At Richter \$8,500.00
 2. Make Music Day
 - a. Posters have been distributed by John Fazio Jr. In order to have a performance schedule for the day there still must be pairing of performers to venues. In addition to the Music Centre there are 2 Venues and 9 Performers.
 - b. The Coordinator will be in Danbury all day for the Make Music Day project to record events and assist as needed. Overall hours are 11:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.
 3. Poetry contest winners
 - a. Awards presentation was recorded. It needs to be edited and then will be posted.
 - b. Past years for which there are saved poems:
 - i. 1975, 1984 - 1985, 1987, 1988 - 1989, 1990 - 1996, 1977, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2008, 2011 through 2021
 4. Scholarships
 - a. Danbury High we are waiting for the names
 - b. Winner at Abbott Tech is Anaeli River. The Awards day is June 11
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Appeals from Community groups:

None

Old Business

1. JCooke noted that the Garden Club has been notified about Go Public Gardens Days May 6-15, 2022.
2. University Intern project - Report from Jonathan Wencek
A final preview is prepared. Commissioners are asked to make any comments and suggestions prior to launch June 1, 2021. The Judge's biographies and a site explanation still need to be added.
3. Make Music Day
 - a. (See the Coordinator's report).
4. Poetry Awards
 - a. (See the Coordinator's report)

Action on Grant Requests:

None.

New Business

Allocation of remaining fund balance

1. GSmith asks consideration of using the majority of the \$25,000 budget balance and establishing an apprenticeship in cultural/civic affairs for Danbury residents through any one of the seven Fairfield County universities. Applicants would need to have their university approval and we



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would be the judges as to who would be the winner and the winner would be assigned to a task benefiting the City of Danbury.

2. Chairman HCenter asked for consideration to allocate additional funds to those groups which had their application request reduced at their appearance. His suggestion is for The Danbury Music Centre \$5,000, for Richter Association for the Arts \$5,000, and Musicals at Richter \$1,000. An additional allocation of \$5,000 should be made to hire a consultant to increase awareness of the Cultural Commission by younger audiences. That person would also develop contacts within the community to encourage younger artists to participate in programs and start new programs which would increase exposure and participation of a younger demographic.

MOTION: Chairman HCenter's request was moved by GSmith and seconded by CHill.

DISCUSSION: This person should be available July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Suggested that the current intern, who has already done a lot of work in this arena be asked to consider the position. JCooke notes this proposal would increase cooperation between the City and Western Connecticut State University. The Commissioners ask the Chairman to make the personnel selection.

CALLED: Allocation of fund balance passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business

1. GSmith asks for an update on the closet issue
 - a. The Coordinator reports that this is not the time to make waves. The Cultural Commission is the City agency occupying the building and the Music Centre has a lease which clearly defines the space they have access to.
2. JCooke suggests Commissioners get a look at the art exhibit at Mothership on Main. Opening night of "Emergence": A Fine Art Show. Artist Jessica Ventura will be on hand to celebrate a collection of oils and watercolor. The event is May 27 between 4:40 to 8:40 P.M.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30

Made by CHill. Passed by Unanimous vote.

NOTE:

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89093171892?pwd=S0o2TjB2R0pkNkVxMXdaRG9hM2lGZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 9317 1892 Passcode: 707957

One tap mobile +19292056099,,89093171892#,,,,*707957# US (New York)	Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 890 9317 1892 Passcode: 707957
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The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.

Upcoming events CURTAILED Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B

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